

## PRE

3. Affumption; claim to notice.  
 Despire not these few ensuing pages; for never was any thing of this *pretence* more ingeniously imparted. *Evelyn.*
4. Claim true or false.  
 Spirits in our just *pretences* arm'd  
 Fell with us. *Milton.*  
 Primogeniture cannot have any *pretence* to a right of solely inheriting property or power. *Locke.*  
*Shakespeare* uses this word with more affinity to the original Latin, for something threatened, or held out to terrify.  
 I have conceived a most faint neglect of late, which I have rather blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very *pretence* and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare.*  
 In the great hand of God I stand, and thence  
 Against the undivulg'd *pretence* I fight  
 Of treas'rous malice. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*  
 He hath writ this to feel my affection for your honour, and to no other *pretence* of danger. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- TO PRETEND. *v. a.* [*pretendo*, Lat. *pretendere*, Fr.]  
 1. To hold out; to stretch forward. This is mere Latinity, and not used.  
 Lucanus, to lash his horses, bends  
 Prone to the wheels, and his left foot *pretends*. *Dryden.*  
 2. To portend; to forebode. Not in use.  
 All these movements seem'd to be *pretended* by moving of the earth in Sulfex. *Playward.*  
 3. To make any appearance of having; to allege falsely.  
 This let him know,  
 Left wilfully transgressing he *pretend*  
 Surprised. *Milton.*  
 What reason then can any man *pretend* against religion, when it is so apparently for the benefit, not only of human society, but of every particular person. *Tillotson.*  
 4. To show hypocritically.  
 'Tis their interest to guard themselves from those riotous effects of *pretended* zeal, nor is it less their duty. *D. of Pity.*  
 5. To hold out as a delusive appearance; to exhibit as a cover of something hidden. This is rather Latin.  
 Warn all creatures from these  
 Henceforth; lest that too heavily form, *pretended*  
 To hellish falsehood, snare them. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 6. To claim. In this sense we rather say, *pretend to*.  
 Chiefs shall be grudge'd the part which they *pretend*. *Dry.*  
 Are they not rich? what more can they *pretend*?  
 TO PRETEND. *v. n.*  
 1. To put in a claim truly or falsely. It is seldom used without shade of censure.  
 What peace can be, where both to one *pretend*?  
 But they more diligent, and more strong. *Dryden.*  
 In those countries that *pretend* to freedom, princes are subject to those laws which their people have chosen. *Swift.*  
 2. To presume on ability to do any thing; to profess presumptuously.  
 Of the ground of redness in this sea are we not fully satisfied; for there is another red sea, whose name we *pretend* not to make out from these principles. *Brown.*  
 PRETENDER. *n. s.* [*pretend*, Fr.] One who lays claim to any thing.  
 The prize was disputed only till you were seen; now all *pretenders* have withdrawn their claims. *Dryden.*  
 Whatever victories the several *pretenders* to the empire obtained over one another, they are recorded on coins without the least reflection. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*  
 The numerous *pretenders* to places would never have been kept in order, if expectation had been cut off. *Swift.*  
 To just contempt ye vain *pretenders* fall, *Pope.*  
 The people's fable and the scorn of all.  
 Pretenders to philosophy or good sense grow fond of this sort of learning. *Watts.*  
 PRETENDINGLY. *adv.* [*pretending*, Fr.] Arrogantly; presumptuously.  
 I have a particular reason to look a little *pretendingly* at present. *Collier on Pride.*  
 PRETENSION. *n. s.* [*pretensio*, Lat. *pretentio*, Fr.]  
 1. Claim true or false.  
 But if to unjust things thou dost *pretend*,  
 Ere they begin, let thy *pretensions* end. *Denham.*  
 Men indulge those opinions and practices, that favour their *pretensions*. *L'Estrange.*  
 The commons demand that the consilium should lie in common to the *pretensions* of any Roman. *Swift.*  
 2. Fictitious appearance. A Latin phrase or sense.  
 This was but an invention and *pretension* given out by the Spaniards. *Bacon.*  
 PRETER. *n. s.* [*preter*, Lat.] A particle, which prefixed to words of Latin original, signifies *before*.  
 PRETERIMPERFECT. *adj.* In grammar, denotes the tense not perfectly past.  
 PRETERIT. *adj.* [*preterit*, Fr. *preteritus*, Lat.] Past.  
 PRETERITION. *n. s.* [*preteritio*, Fr. from *preterit*, Lat.] The act of going past; the state of being past.  
 PRETERITNESS. *n. s.* [*preterit*, Fr.] State of being past; not present; not futurity.

## PRE

- We cannot conceive a *preterit* still backwards in infinitum, that never was present, as we can an endless futurity, that never will be present, so that though one is potentially infinite, yet nevertheless the other is positively finite: and this reasoning doth not at all affect the eternal existence of the adorable divinity, in whose invariable nature there is no past nor future. *Bentley's Sermon.*
- PRETERLAPSED. *adj.* [*preterlapsus*, Lat.] Past and gone.  
 We look with a superstitious reverence upon the accounts of *preterlapsed* ages. *Glanville's Sect.*  
 Never was there so much of either, in any *preterlapsed* age, as in this. *Walter.*
- PRETERLEGAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *legal*, Lat.] Not agreeable to law.  
 I expected some evil customs *preterlegal*, and abuses personal, had been to be removed. *King Charles.*
- PRETERMISSION. *n. s.* [*pretermissio*, Fr. *pretermissio*, Lat.] The act of omitting.  
 TO PRETERMIT. *v. a.* [*pretermitto*, Lat.] To pass by.  
 The fees, that are termly given to these deputies, for recompence of their pains, I do purposely *pretermit*; because they be not certain. *Bacon.*
- PRETERNATURAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *natural*, Lat.] Different from what is natural, irregular.  
 We will enquire into the cause of this vile and *preternatural* temper of mind, that should make a man please himself with that, which can no ways reach those faculties, which nature has made the proper feat of pleasure. *South's Sermon.*  
 That form, which the earth is under at present, is *preternatural*, like a statue made and broken again. *Burns.*
- PRETERNATURALLY. *adv.* [*from preternatural*, Lat.] In a manner different from the common order of nature.  
 Simple air, *preternaturally* attenuated by heat, will make itself room, and break and blow up all that which resisteth it. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- PRETERNATURALNESS. *n. s.* [*from preternatural*, Lat.] Manner different from the order of nature.
- PRETERPERFECT. *adj.* [*preteritum perfectum*, Lat.] A grammatical term applied to the tense which denotes time absolutely past.  
 The same natural aversion to loquacity has of late made a considerable alteration in our language, by closing in one syllable the termination of our *preterperfect* tenses, as *drown'd*, *walk'd*, for *drown'd*, *walk'd*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- PRETERPLUPERFECT. *adj.* [*preteritum plusquam perfectum*, Lat.] The grammatical epithet for the tense denoting time relatively past, or past before some other past time.  
 PRETEXT. *n. s.* [*pretexis*, Lat. *pretexis*, Fr.] Pretence; false appearance; false allegation.  
 My *pretext* to strike at him admits  
 A good construction. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*  
 Under this *pretext*, the means he sought  
 To ruin such whose might did much exceed  
 His pow'r to wrong. *Daniel's Civil War.*  
 As chymists gold from brags by fire would draw,  
 Pretends are into treason forg'd by law. *Denham.*  
 I shall not say with how much, or how little *pretext* of reason they managed those disputes. *Decay of Piety.*  
 They suck the blood of those they depend upon, under a *pretext* of service and kindness. *L'Estrange.*
- PRETOR. *n. s.* [*pretor*, Lat. *pretor*, Fr.] The Roman judge. It is now sometimes taken for a mayor.  
 Good Cinna, take this paper;  
 And look you lay it in the *pretor's* chair. *Shakespeare.*  
 Porphyrius, whom you Egypt's *pretor* made,  
 Is come from Alexandria to your aid. *Dryden.*  
 An advocate, pleading the cause of his client before one of the *pretors*, could only produce a single witness, in a point where the law required two. *Spektator*, No 55b.
- PRETORIAN. *adj.* [*pretorianus*, Lat. *pretorian*, Fr.] Judicial; exercised by the pretor.  
 The chancery had the *pretorian* power for equity; the star-chamber had the censorial power for offences. *Bacon.*
- PRETTILY. *adv.* [*from pretty*, Lat.] Neatly; elegantly; pleasingly without dignity or elevation.  
 How *prettily* the young swain seems to waltz  
 The hand was fair before. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*  
 One faith *prettily*; in the quenching of the flame of a pestilent ague, nature is like people that come to quench the fire of a house; so busy, as one letteth another. *Bacon.*  
 Children, kept out of ill company, take a pride to behave themselves *prettily*, after the fashion of others. *Locke.*
- PRETTINESS. *n. s.* [*from pretty*, Lat.] Beauty without dignity; neat elegance without elevation.  
 There is goodliness in the bodies of animals, as in the ox, greyhound and stag; or majesty and stateliness, as in the lion, horse, eagle and cock; grave awfulness, as in mastiffs, or elegance and *prettiness*, as in lesser dogs and most sort of birds; all which are several modes of beauty.  
 Those drops of *prettiness*, scattering sprinkled amongst the creatures, were designed to delectate and exalt our conceptions, not to inveigle or detain our passions. *Boyle.*
- PRETTY. *adj.* [*præ*, finery, Sax. *pretto*, Italian; *prat*, *prattig*, Dutch.]  
 1. Neat; elegant; pleasing without surprise or elevation.  
 Of these idle Greeks have many *pretty* tales. *Raleigh.*  
 They found themselves involved in a train of mistakes, by taking up some *pretty* hypothesis in philosophy. *Watts.*
2. Beautiful without grandeur or dignity.  
 The *pretty* gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind. *Speltdater.*
3. It is used in a kind of diminutive contempt in poetry, and in conversation: as, a *pretty fellow indeed!*  
 A *pretty* task; and so I told the fool, *Dryden.*  
 Who needs must undertake to please by rule.  
 He'll make a *pretty* figure in a triumph,  
 And serve to trip before the victor's chariot. *Addison.*
4. Not very small. This is a very vulgar use.  
 A knight of Wales, with shipping and some *pretty* company, did go to discover those parts. *Abbot.*  
 Cut off the stalks of cucumbers, immediately after their bearing, close by the earth, and then cast a *pretty* quantity of earth upon the plant, and they will bear next year before the ordinary time. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
 I would have a mount of some *pretty* height, leaving the wall of the enclosure breach high. *Bacon's Essay.*  
 Of this mixture we put a parcel into a crucible, and suffered it for a *pretty* while to continue red hot. *Boyle.*  
 A weazel a *pretty* way off flood leering at him. *L'Estr.*
- PRETTY. *adv.* In some degree. This word is used before adverbs or adjectives to intend their signification; it is less than *very*.  
 The world begun to be *pretty* well stocked with people, and human industry drained those uninhabitable places. *Burns.*  
 I shall not enquire how far this lofty method may advance the reputation of learning; but I am *pretty* sure 'tis no great addition to theirs who use it. *Collier.*  
 A little voyage round the lake took up five days, though the wind was *pretty* fair for us all the while. *Addison.*  
 I have a fondness for a project, and a *pretty* tolerable genius that way myself. *Addison's Guardian*, No 107.  
 These colours were faint and dilute, unless the light was trajected obliquely; for by that means they became *pretty* vivid. *Newton's Opticks.*  
 This writer every where insinuates, and, in one place, *pretty* plainly professes himself a sincere christian. *Atterbury.*  
 The copper halfpence are coined by the publick, and every piece worth *pretty* near the value of the copper. *Swift.*  
 The first attempts of this kind were *pretty* modest. *Baker.*
- TO PREVAIL. *v. n.* [*prevaleo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, Lat.]  
 1. To be in force; to have effect; to have power; to have influence.  
 This custom makes the short-sighted bigots, and the warrier scepticks, as far as it *prevails*. *Locke.*  
 2. To overcome; to gain the superiority. With *on* or *upon*, sometimes *over* or *against*.  
 They that were your enemies, are his,  
 And have *prevail'd* as much on him as you. *Shakespeare.*  
 Nor is it hard for thee to preserve me amidst the unjust hatred and jealousness of too many, which thou hast suffered to *prevail* upon me. *King Charles.*  
 I told you then he should *prevail*, and speed  
 On his bad errand. *Milton.*  
 The millenium *prevail'd* long against the truth upon the strength of authority. *Decay of Piety.*  
 While Malbro's cannon thus *prevails* by land,  
 Britain's sea-chiefs by Anna's high command,  
 Resistless o'er the Thulcan billows ride. *Blackmore.*  
 Thus long could *prevail*  
 O'er death and o'er hell,  
 A conquest how hard and how glorious;  
 Though fate had fast bound her  
 With Styx nine times round her,  
 Yet music and love were victorious. *Pope.*  
 This kingdom could never *prevail* against the united power of England. *Swift.*
3. To gain influence; to operate effectually.  
 4. To persuade or induce by entreaty. It has *with*, *upon* or *on* before the person persuaded.  
 With minds obdurate nothing *prevails*, as well they that preach, as they that read unto such, shall still have cause to complain with the prophets of old, who will give credit unto our teaching? *Hooker*, b. v. f. 22.  
 He was *prevail'd* with to restrain the earl of Bristol upon his first arrival. *Clarendon.*  
 The serpent with me  
 Persuasively have so *prevail'd*, that I  
 Have also tatted. *Milton.*  
 They are more in danger to go out of the way, who are marching under the conduct of a guide, than it is an hundred to one will mislead them, than he that has not yet taken a step, and is liker to be *prevail'd* on to enquire after the right way. *Locke.*  
 There are four sorts of arguments that men, in their reasonings with others, make use of to *prevail* on them. *Locke.*

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- The gods pray  
 He would resume the conduct of the day,  
 Nor let the world be lost in endless night;  
*Prevail'd* upon at last, again he took  
 The harness'd steeds, that fill with horror shook. *Addison.*  
 Upon assurances of revolt, the queen was *prevail'd* with to send her forces upon that expedition. *Swift.*  
*Prevail* upon some judicious friend to be your constant hearer, and allow him the utmost freedom. *Swift.*
- PREVALENT. *adj.* [*from prevail*, Lat.] Predominant; having most influence.  
 Probabilities, which cross men's appetites and *prevailing* passions, run the same fate: let never so much probability hang on one side of a covetous man's reasoning, and money on the other, it is easy to foresee which will outweigh. *Locke.*  
 Save the friendless infants from oppression;  
 Saints shall assist thee with *prevailing* prayers,  
 And warring angels combat on thy side. *Rowe.*
- PREVALENT. *n. s.* [*from prevail*, Lat.] Prevalence.  
 Messengers  
 Of strong *prevailment* in unhardened youth. *Shakespeare.*
- PREVALENCE. *n. s.* [*prevaleo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, low Lat.]  
 PREVALENCY. *n. s.* [*prevaleo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, low Lat.]  
 Superiority; influence; predominance.  
 The duke better knew, what kind of arguments were of *prevaleo* with him. *Clarendon.*  
 Others finding that, in former times, many churchmen were employed in the civil government, imputed their wanting of these ornaments their predecessors wore, to the power and *prevaleo* of the lawyers. *Clarendon.*  
 Animals, whose forelegs supply the use of arms, hold, if not an equality in both, a *prevaleo* oft times in the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- Why, fair one, would you not rely  
 On reason's force with beauty's join'd;  
 Could I their *prevaleo* deny,  
 I must at once be deaf and blind. *Prior.*  
 Least of all does this precept imply, that we should comply with any thing that the *prevaleo* of corrupt fashion has made reputable. *Rogers's Sermons.*
- PREVALENT. *adj.* [*prevaleo*, Lat.] Victorious; gaining superiority.  
 Brennus told the Roman ambassadors, that *prevaleo* arms were as good as any title, and that valiant men might account to be their own as much as they could get. *Raleigh.*  
 On the foughten field,  
 Michael and his angels *prevaleo* encamping. *Milton.*  
 The conduct of a peculiar providence made the instruments of that great design *prevaleo* and victorious, and all those mountains of opposition to become plains. *South's Sermons.*
2. Predominant; powerful.  
 Eve! easily may faith admit, that all  
 The good which we enjoy, from heav'n descends;  
 But, that from us ought should ascend to heav'n,  
 So *prevaleo*, as to concern the mind  
 Of God high-bless'd, or to incline his will;  
 Hard to belief may seem. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 This was the most received and *prevaleo* opinion, when I first brought my collection up to London. *Woodward.*
- PREVALENTLY. *adv.* [*from prevalent*, Lat.] Powerfully; forcibly.  
 The evening-star so falls into the main,  
 To rise at morn more *prevaleo* bright. *Prior.*
- TO PREVARICATE. *v. n.* [*prevariar*, Lat. *prevariar*, Fr.]  
 To cavil; to quibble; to shuffle.  
 Laws are either disannulled or quite *prevariat*ed through change and alteration of times, yet they are good in themselves. *Spenser.*  
 He *prevariates* with his own understanding, and cannot seriously consider the strength, and discern the evidence of arguments against his desires. *South.*  
 Whoever helped him to this citation, I desire he will never trust him more; for I would think better of himself, than that he would wilfully *prevariate*. *Stillington.*
- PREVARICATION. *n. s.* [*prevariatio*, Lat. *prevariatio*, Fr. from *prevariare*, Lat.] Shuffle; cavil.  
 Several Romans, taken prisoners by Hannibal, were released upon obliging themselves by an oath to return again to his camp: among these was one, who, thinking to elude the oath, went the same day back to the camp, on pretence of having forgot something; but this *prevariation* was so shocking to the Roman senate, that they ordered him to be delivered up to Hannibal. *Addison's Freeholder.*
- PREVARICATOR. *n. s.* [*prevariator*, Lat. *prevariator*, Fr. from *prevariare*, Lat.] A caviller; a shuffler.  
 PREVENIENT. *adj.* [*preveniens*, Lat.] Preceding; going before; preventive.  
 From the mercy-seat above  
 Prevenient grace descending, had remov'd  
 The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh  
 Regenerate grow instead. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 TO PREVENT. *v. a.* [*prevengo*, Lat.] To hinder.  
 If thy indulgent care  
 Had not *prevent'd*, among unbody'd shades  
 I now had wander'd. *Philips.*

TO PREVENT.